SEPT. 26-OCT. 2

MATWATCH

213 PINE HILLS AVE. AUBURN, AL. 36830 (205)826-7522

VOL. 1, NO. 14

STEVE'S SIDELIGHTS
By Steve Beverly

* * * SEVERAL KEY WRESTLERS
* * * WITHDRAW FROM THE ROAD
* * * TO BIRMINGHAM OCT. 3

EDDIE GILBERT OUT AS CWF BOOKER; DANGEROUSLY, MISSY, DOUG GILBERT ALSO DEPART; OTHERS EXPECTED TO FOLLOW

MONTGOMERY, Ala. - In a stunning move, Eddie Gilbert ended a six-month stint as booker for the Continental Wrestling Federation Thursday afternoon. Sources close to Gilbert say he resigned; promotion insiders tell MATWATCH Gilbert was fired. The Gilbert departure came after a month of internal squabbling and only 11 days prior to the CWF's ROAD TO BIRMINGHAM supercard.

Gilbert's wife, Missy Hyatt, brother Doug and manager Paul E. Dangerously have all left the CWF and a number of wrestlers Gilbert recruited to the CWF are expected to follow suit. Already, Chris Adams, Bob Orton Jr. and Bam Bam Bigelow (see related item on Page 2) have withdrawn from Monday night's TRTB. Wrestling observers predict the CWF cannot salvage enough of a tournament to justify a $25 charge for the first two ringside rows.

Efforts to reach CWF owner David Woods were not successful. Paul Heyman (Dangerously) did speak briefly by phone to MATWATCH but did not comment publicly.

Both sides have privately blamed the other for the divorce. Through several phone conversations with people close to the principals, MATWATCH has learned the blowup involved several issues:

* PERSONNEL: The promotion believed Gilbert was growing the CWF too fast. In a recent week, the CWF is said to have issued 34 paychecks. Management preferred 18-20 wrestlers.

* TRTB: CWF officials were not in agreement a supercard should be promoted this soon. Plus, ticket prices for Boutwell Auditorium were considered too high.

* PAY: A number of wrestlers received in the most recent pay period what they considered abnormally low checks. A CWF official says it stemmed from a 2-week decline in gates and the size of the roster. But one leading performer was angered at receiving less for one show than a referee.

* TV: Harsh words were exchanged over the failure to Federal Express the Sept. 18 CWF show to FNN/SCORE which resulted in the show's pre-emption. The Gilbert camp was also reportedly upset with promos airing for incorrect shows in recent local tapes.

* RON WEST: MATWATCH was unable to contact the CWF's road manager but we have been told a dispute ensued over West's desire to bring in Bill Dundee and Bob Armstrong against Gilbert's wishes and West was accused of being a catalyst of dissension among wrestlers loyal to Gilbert.

* EDDIE GILBERT: One insider says Gilbert, suffering from a shoulder injury, was not honest with Woods about working on a Sept. 16 card in Kansas City against Chris Adams. The source insists the promotion was told as late as Thursday that Doug Gilbert was in the match instead of Eddie. That allegation was denied by a source close to Gilbert, as well as a charge that Dangerously attempted to organize a walkout of key CWF wrestlers.

Remaining wrestlers were to discuss the situation Sunday in Montgomery. Tony Anthony, Lord Humongous and most of the wrestlers who came from Ron Fuller's USA promotion are expected to stay. Terry Gordy reportedly told Woods he will be at TRTB. Shane Douglas, however, is not expected to continue, Austin Idol is said to be a question mark and former Calgary star Brian Pillman has canceled plans to come.

Several insiders believe Armstrong will be the interim booker. Joe Pedicino will likely not continue as color commentator for CWF TV. The betting line is that Lord Humongous, who was not scheduled in the CWF tourney, will wind up with the belt Monday night.

Next week, I'll offer my own analysis of this situation.

TURNER TAKES CONTROL OF NWA OCT. 1;

BIGELOW COMES THIS WEEK, WARRIORS TO TURN

The agreement in principle for Turner Broadcasting System's buyout of Jim Crockett Promotions has been reached. TBS is tentatively scheduled to take control of the NWA Saturday, though major changes will probably be subtle and gradual.

Veteran TBS executive Jack Petrik will be the CEO of this branch of the company. While Jim Crockett remains on paper as general manager of the company and will likely continue to handle house shows, another TBS official will handle daily operations. As reported last week, David and Frances Crockett have been offered positions but a TBS official told MATWATCH neither job is influential.

The immediate task is to cement Turner's relationship with Ric Flair, an initial key to this venture's success. While on Sept. 16, I had been given strong indication Flair was "solid" with the NWA, last Tuesday I was told by a trusted source that Flair had been made an offer by Turner that he considered "an insult," and was "50-50" on jumping to the WWF. Friday, I was again assured by a TBS executive that Flair is in the fold for the immediate future, though nothing would surprise me as I well remember Ted DiBiase's quick departure after Crockett bought the UWF last year.

Three key items are not unrelated to the sale: first, Bam Bam Bigelow, originally committed to a CWF/Japan schedule, joins the NWA this week and Sir Oliver Humperdink is expected in as his manager. Bigelow will fulfill a Japan committment in October and as part of the deal, will continue to work his Orient dates.

But the second big item, which may not occur until the Starrcade buildup, will be the turn of The Road Warriors (not on Sting, which would draw incredible heat) but on (you guessed it) The Big Ball of Cholesterol. So, Bigelow will be the latest to come to Dusty's aid.

I've discussed that angle with the key wrestling media members in the U.S. and most of them are laughing at it. Says one key expert: "That'll NEVER work...the fans will love them beating up Dusty and the Road Warriors will get cheered more than ever." Another insider reflected my view: "It's another reason why the Turner people have to get Dusty out as booker as quick as they can because it's the last in a long line of out-of-control moves to focus attention on himself."

Finally, MATWATCH has learned that "three or four major names" who are former NWA stars are negotiating to return to the group and our source indicates that could happen as early as Oct. 15. We were not told who but I've run down a list as long as a dozen possibilities. Instinct tells me Greg Valentine could be one since he came close to returning last November and is sharply declining in value to the WWF. To list others would be pure speculation but play along at home and if it happens, see if you're right.

We have been led to believe one of the first key items of surgery TBS will perform is on the Saturday and Sunday TV shows, particularly the flagship 6:05 show on Saturday. One source told me, "Hopefully, you won't even recognize that show in six months." I've offered my proposals here at least three times so I won't go into it again, other than to say I'd like to see that stale set completely redesigned, Jim Ross become the focal play-by-play announcer, possibly a hot heel color man along the lines of Bobby Jaggers' role in Puerto Rico, and I'd even repackage the whole thing as "TBS PRESENTS THE NWA WIDE WORLD OF WRESTLING" with an opening that almost directly rips off ABC's WIDE WORLD OF SPORTS as a parody. But I'd make it the hottest show on the tube and get those ratings up.

On the early Saturday show, I'd spotlight the younger, coming stars of the NWA (some new ones of which are sorely needed) and let some of the jobbers who have eventual potential have a decent chance to win a match. And I'd go to the extent of offering Gordon Solie a chance to return as host of that morning hour, which would be a great p.r. move, in my view.

As for NWA MAIN EVENT, I'd go back and watch and rewatch the first episode of that show. It was as close to a Japanese broadcast as you'll see and the show has never been the same. Reportedly, Rhodes opposed the concept and has tried to kill it.

But I'd make the modification that the pattern of CLASH III be followed with Tony Schiavone in a Jim McKay type of role and Ross the key play-by-play man. Close the show not with DQ endings but with wild melees that let Ross's hysterical showclosers, a la his UWF days, reach their full fruition. Those great signoff cliffhangers of Ross are some of my favorite tapes in my collection.

If the TBS people listen to their viewers in this venture as much as they do in programming the SuperStation, rather than follow the egotistical desires of a limited few, watch this company rebound. It belongs to Ted Turner now. It's up to his people to finish first.

COMINGS & GOINGS

---From the three-night Jerry Jarrett-produced AWA tapings: two good crowds (Nashville, Louisville) and a rather disappointing "average" turnout of 5,000 in Memphis, particularly with all the names present. Perhaps Elvistown is simply burned out on Jerry Lawler-Kerry Von Erich double DQs.

---In Nashville, Michael Hayes & Steve Cox beat the Samoan Swat Team for the World Class tag team belts (at least they're having title changes on this tour) and Ronnie Garvin whipped the longest-reigning (and only) AWA International TV champion for his title, Groovy Greg Gagne.

---In Louisville, Lawler & Jimmy Valiant went to a double countout with Kerry and Hayes; The Three Guererros d. RPMs and Hangman; Wendi Richter & Magnificent Mimi went to a draw with Medusa Miceli & Sylvia in what was called a dreadful match; and in a 10-man tag, The Rock & Roll Express (yep, Ricky Morton has parted NWA company)/Top Guns/Jeff Jarrett d. Bad Company/RPMs/Cactus Jack Foley.

---In Memphis, SST won back the tag belts from Hayes & Cox; Bad Company d. RPMs; Garvin drew with Robert Gibson; Kerry-Lawler a double DQ; and Col. DeBeers put a piledriver on Sgt. Slaughter to allegedly set up an angle for Verne Gagne's pay-per-boo show in December.

---This should offer some terrific ESPN shows beginning Nov. 3 (who knows how many of these guys will still be with the organizations by then). I hope they used Lance Russell as the announcer as well to breath some life into those deadly AWA telecasts.

---I'm sorry Morton quit the NWA again. I was curious how many Expresses they'd create. We had Rock & Lightning Express, Rock & Russian, etc. Maybe now they'll team with Tojo Yamamoto for the Rock & Orient Express.

---A belated BOO AWARD to TBS for allowing the Crocketts to tape an a.m. show on 9/17 plugging the Sullivan-Simmons dog collar match and then sticking the Braves in the WCW p.m. slot with no explanation.

---On the TV front, the Southern show genuinely needs a prop. I realize they don't have a big TV budget but when they do stick Rick Stewart in front of a blank wall in what looks like a closet to host the show, it has the look of a high school editing class.

---I don't know if this is indicative of the straights of SCW but Rhubarb Jones' entry as a wrestler smacks of desperation. Rhubarb is a heckuva nice guy, is a national award-winning country deejay and has an enormously popular a.m. drive show in Atlanta. But he should stick to radio, no matter how much of a chance the angle has to get over. It reminds me of Columbus sportscaster Gary (No Hulk) Hogan's old "Sports Challenge" series, during which he took on Jerry Oates at the City Auditorium. Oates destroyed Hogan in two minutes and Hogan stayed in the anchor booth ever thereafter.

---In the abortive CWF angle to explain Gilbert's injury (which will now probably not air on the week's TV show), Charlie Platt detailed a history of Eddie's injuries dating to high school. Dangerously appears and says, "This is a matter between Thomas E. Gilbert II and Paul Heyman (Dangerously's real name). When I came here, I invested in a racehorse named Eddie Gilbert. Now, he can't go. So, I might as well take him out back and shoot him." At this point, Doug (Nightmare Freddy) Gilbert leaves and Tony Anthony comes out as Dangerously's new contender.

---If Gilbert had run TRTB, I'm told Tom Prichard would have been the surprise winner of the CWF heavyweight title. Gilbert considered Prichard the group's next big star.

---Charlie Platt's line to Paul E. on the taping we probably now won't see: "You're more nauseating than a 48-hour stomach virus."

---Only an average crowd saw Ric Flair's Portland defense against Dave (Top Gun) Sierra. I just saw the 1st 4 weeks of TV and the Owen group had done a nice buildup for the show.

---One cliche is: if Vince McMahon wants you to be over, you'll be over. But unless some WWF philosophies about smaller guys are changed, I can't help but believe Owen Hart will be considered too good for the WWF. One problem is only about four of the WWF's roster can even match pace with Owen. But I'd sure like to see the workrate in one Owen-DiBiase match.

MATWATCH SUBSCRIPTIONS

For a 2-month (8-issue) subscription ($5) or one-year subscription ($26), send check or money order to: STEVE BEVERLY, 213 PINE HILLS AVENUE, AUBURN AL 36830

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

CITY/STATE_____

ZIP_____

YOU SAID IT...

I enjoyed SS88, especially the tag team matches and the main event, which had extraordinary heat thanks mostly to Jesse (who added conceptual juice) and DiBiase (who was the apotheosis of the 80s pro wrestler). I heard some griping and I'm sure the Titan-haters loathed it but as someone who sees every MSG show (on TV), this was two to three times better than ANY MSG show in memory.

I'm watching CWF regularly now that it's back on SCORE. What impresses me about Gilbert is the way he builds up EVERYBODY. There are no jobbers here in the way that there are everywhere else---everyone has a story and a "persona."

BILL KUNKEL
WOODHAVEN NY

If Dusty Rhodes feels big event TV cards hurt the arena gates, after seeing CLASH III, would not a weaker TV special hurt the gates even more? If you are going to showcase your product to the mass audiences like TBS, for example, wouldn't it be better to put your best selling points over (ex: Flair, Road Warriors, Tully & Arn, etc.)?

BRIAN SCOTT
HAMILTON ONT

I'm glad you and your wife are OK. Cars can be replaced, lives can't.

JOHN LANIGAN
McKEESPORT PA

(FSB: Thanks, John, and to a number of you who wrote or called to express similar kind thoughts.)

You've really done a first-rate job in covering the Turner/NWA story. But in my view, they ought to do everything they can to bring back the guy who had the best promotion in the '80s, in my view: Bill Watts. At least the TV shows wouldn't be the crap they are now on TBS. What do you think?

CHARLIE WEST
HAMMOND IN

(FSB: I have clearly stated that Watts produced the best U.S. TV shows of this decade. Now, one must add, Watts had strong people who contributed to that: Ken Mantell, Eddie Gilbert, Jim Ross, Watts' son Joel. But with TV to be the thing I believe Turner will emphasize most, I'd like to see what Watts could do with it. I don't think Watts would have allowed NWA MAIN EVENT to become like sour milk.)

Enjoyed some of your recent coverage of Joe Pedicino and PWTW. But we haven't been able to find the show lately in Chicago. What can we do?

JACK CARLSON
DESPLANES IL

(FSB: I'm sure Joe will be pleased to know of your thoughts, too. Joe recently told me he hopes to be back on in Chicago soon, perhaps after PWTW reverts to an hour format.)

Crockett got the NWA PRO show on a good time slot in Kitchener ONT...about 2 1/2 hour trip from Detroit. You know, those generic NWA "Catch the Pinfalls" promos that run endlessly throughout the syndicated shows? Well, since the NWA is not promoting any Canadian dates, why wouldn't they run the Detroit promos instead of leaving them blank? You sure wouldn't see the WWF wasting any kind of advertising opportunity like that!

JEFF ZINGER
WOODSTOCK ONT

I REMEMBER: BOB HOWELL

He now sits at the anchor desk of one of the highest-rated local newscasts on an NBC affiliate in the U.S. He regularly reports on the ramblings of the Alabama Legislature, a group as complex as the lineup for Titan Sports.

But in the early '70s, a young guy with a voice that sounded as if it had been sculpted was your co-host of WTVY Studio Wrestling, live from Dothan, Ala. His name was Bob Howell and if he'd wanted to become a big-timer in this industry, he could have.

Bob usually teamed with John Goss in bringing you the weekly wars between Prince Pullins, Mike Boyette (The California Hippie), Ken Lucas & Johnny West, Eddie Sullivan and the incomparable Donnie Fargo. And, of course, the perennial lead babyface, Dick Dunn.

A high school kid was a camera operator on those Dothan shows. His name was David Woods. Recently, Woods, now the CWF guru, remembered Howell's years fondly: "I think Bob was the best wrestling announcer ever. He did it with the same style and grace that he does as a newscaster now. There was always a touch of class with Bob at the mike."

I run into Bob regularly at NSFA in Montgomery now where he's one of the Southeast's top anchors. But I used to watch him every Saturday when I lived in Americus, Ga. Bob had a distinctive inflection during a beal or a monkey flip when he'd tell you a grappler was being tossed "UP and over." I'll not forget the

serenity Howell had to describe a ring incident when Boyette broke an opponent's ankle because he moved forward on a Russian leg sweep instead of in reverse. Or his having to mediate a situation when Fargo told promoter Rocky McGuire he'd name his own referee for a match at the Fara Center.

Howell was once offered a tempting five-figure salary to handle part of the announcing chores in Florida but turned it down and moved into his award-winning role in television news.

But could he have made it big at ringside?

While Gordon Solie is the greatest broadcaster in the history of this sport, in my view, Bob and Ed Capral have been the two finest voices wrestling has known. They treated it as if they were calling the action in an NFL game and made the contest the important focus. With our attention turned toward Birmingham this week, I fondly remember Bob Howell, a wrestling commentator few of you ever heard but who brought a touch of Tiffany to brutes and bruisers.

TV TEMPO (Weekend of Sept. 23-25)

RATINGS: PINFALL! - Must See. PILEDRIVER - Excellent. POWERSLAM - Good. DRAW - Average. RESTHOLD - Fair. BOMB - Poor. PLUS - Midscale rating.

(WWC) - Hurricane Castillo Jr. draws with Dan Kroffat; Mr. Pogo wins DQ over Ricky Santana; MUSIC VIDEO: "Double Vision," featuring the Batten Twins. POWERSLAM-PLUS...Bobby Jaggers delivers classic lines.

(MEMPHIS) - All-Recap Show: Phil Hickerson d. Brickhouse Brown; RPMs d. Alan Rapier/John King; review of Bill Dundee-Robert Fuller feud; Arena match: Jerry Lawler d. Dutch Mantel in AWA title bout. DRAW.

(AWA) - Bad Company d. Mike Enos/Houdini; Jerry Lawler d. Wayne Bloom; Col. DeBeers d. Brian Costello; replay of Manny Fernandez shredding Wahoo McDaniel's headdress; Fernandez & McDaniel double countout in match where both juice heavily. Plus, Verne Gagne suspends himself from TV. RESTHOLD...for Verne's act of charity.

(SCW) - Steve Lawler/Dino Minelli d. Mike Rose/Chuck Allen; Scott Armstrong d. Ken Timbs by countout when Timbs no-showed; Armstrong d. The Mystery Man; Tommy Rich d. The Bullet for the Southern title when Rich runs Bullet into referee Rhubarb Jones and with a heavily juicing Tommy, a bike gang attacks Bullet to set up the pin; Dutch Mantel-Steve Prichard cut off before the match (Prichard won by DQ) ends. ON TAPE: Rhubarb runs in to reverse decision in favor of John Michaels after Lawler had help from Minelli to win. POWERSLAM---one of their best in a while.

(CWF) - Jerry Stubbs/Tom Prichard d. Ted Manson/Larry Davis but Stubbs spends entire match on floor arguing with fans; JR. HWT. TITLE: Rick Hazzard d. Nelson Royal by DQ when Royal throws Hazzard over top...Danny Davis does run in and after series of dropkicks, counts his own pin on Royal; Lord Humongous/Shane Douglas/Tim Horner win DQ over Nightmare Freddy/Ken Wayne/Tony Anthony when Eddie Gilbert attacks Douglas as he's about to score pin, then Johnny Rich runs Gilbert out; Bucky Siegler d. Lee Peek, after which BOTH men are attacked by Stubbs. Doug Furnas tries for save and is bashed with a chair before Prichard makes final save; Detroit Demolition d. Peek; Willie B. Hert d. Mr. Alan Martin when Sgt. Bob Carter slugs Martin while the ref is distracted by Sika. MISSY'S MANOR: Dutch Mantel guests. POWERSLAM-PLUS.

(PWTW) - CWF: Tom Prichard d. Danny Davis after Nelson Royal interferes but refuses win; MEMPHIS: Billy Travis/Jeff Jarrett/Bill Dundee/Shawn Baxter draw with RPMs/Gary Young/Cactus Jack Foley but Robert Fuller & Sylvia attack Jamie Dundee; SCW: Ken Timbs d. Scott Armstrong by using object; WWF: Honky Tonk Man jumps Anabolic Warrior; INTERVIEWS: Buddy Roberts, Nelson Royal. 7UP WRESTLER OF WEEK: Prichard. DRAW.

(W. CLASS) - Kendall Windham d. Killer Brooks; The Beast (M.E.B.) d. Dan Fowler; Eric Embry d. Vince Apollo; Super Black Ninja d. Jerry Newton; Jerry Lawler knocks out Kerry Von Erich before their unification title match begins and tries to steal Kerry's belt. RESTHOLD-PLUS...below par for this group.

(NWA/SYND.) - WORLD WIDE: Ron Simmons d. Bob Riddle; The Rock & Sting Express d. Bob Emery/Agent Steel; Chris (Karate Kid) Champion d. David Isley; Russian Assassins, Midnight Express, Varsity Club win other squashes. ANGLE: Windham & J.J. taunt Sting who comes out and mops up with Barry. BOMB-PLUS. NWA PRO: Uncle Ivan d. Tony Suber but is attacked by Russian Assassins with a chain but Nephew Nikita saves; Sting d. Bob Riddle; The R.A.s, Midnights, Sullivans, Windham win other squashes. RESTHOLD.

(WWF) - SUPERSTARS: Jim Duggan d. Antonio Chapotlin; Jake Roberts d. George South; Tito Santana, Bolsheviks, King Haku, Powers of Pain, Rougeaus win other squashes. ANGLE: One Man Gang transformed into Akeem. BOMB-MINUS...don't give us that TNT crap on SUPERSTARS. CHALLENGE: Ted DiBiase d. Tommy Angel; Anabolic Warrior d. Trent Knight; Rick Rude, Big Bossman, Ken Patera, Sam Houston, Dino Bravo win other squashes. Brother Love with Rougeaus. BOMB-PLUS....some empty seats in Hartford for this taping.

TV TEMPO (Continued)

(NWA/TBS) - A.M.: Rick Steiner d. Steady Eddie Sweat; Italian Stallion d. Curtis Thompson; Ivan Koloff, Fantastics, Sheepherders, Russian Assassins win other squashes. BOMB-PLUS. P.M.: Road Warriors d. Menaces; Varsity Club/Kevin Sullivan d. Bruce Hollis/Gary Royal/Randy Mulkey (MULKEYMANIA LIVES AGAIN!!!); Barry Windham, Sting, Midnight Express, Nikita Koloff, Al Perez, Steve Williams/Brad Armstrong (The Doc & Lightning Express) win other squashes. DRAW...Matches as usual but Cornette & Sting do great interviews and the Varsity Club stuff was hilarious. MAIN EVENT: Mike Rotunda retains NWA TV TITLE over Kendall Windham; Bobby Fulton wins DQ over Russian Assassin 1; Road Warriors/Sting d. Varisty Club/Sullivan. DRAW...my same gripe holds.

CORNETTE'S COMEDY CLASSICS (TBS) - 1. "Every time the Sheepherders go to a mindreader they get charged half price." 2. "Rick Steiner won a letter in football and had to have somebody read it to him." 3. "High school was the happiest 9 years of Mike Rotundo's life." 4. "J.J. Dillon: the 1988 Poster Boy for Altzheimer's Disease." (WORLD WIDE) - 5. "Tully Blanchard, Arn Anderson & J.J. Dillon proved one thing: The 3 Stooges had kids."

OTHER LINES OF THE WEEK - 6. Lex Luger, TBS: "It's like Jim Cornette was doing a David Letterman audition out here." 7. Harvey Martin, W. Class: "I like Buddy Roberts but I'd like him a lot more if he didn't wear a dress." 8. Jim Ross, TBS: "I hope our director can send me out a raincoat when I talk to the Sheepherders. It's always a wet experience." 9. Bobby Jaggers, NWC, to co-host Rick St. James, "You know, you're the only graduate of the nincompoop school of wrestling." 10. Jaggers, sporting a shaved head: "We had this power shortage and when the lights came back on, somebody had cut our hair." 11. Rhubarb Jones, SCW, on The Mystery Man: "I don't know what sewer he oozed out of." 12. Joe Pedicino & Dangerously, CWF...PAUL E.: "Pedicino, you need a new suit." JOE: "I believe Dangerously needs a new mouth." 13. Sullivan & Steiner, TBS: KEVIN: "The best way to discipline a naughty child is with a hard hand." STEINER: "That's child abuse...don't do that to me." 14. Jones, SCW: "I'll tell you what you can consider them (Steve Lawler & Dino Minelli) but the FCC won't let me use the adjectives I'd like to use." 15. Sting, TBS, on jobber Jerry Price: "His Spandex is so thin you can see his underwear through it. It embarrassed me." 16. Nikita Koloff, TBS: "Uncle Ivan very stubborn man but Uncle Ivan good man." 17. Stan Lane, W. WIDE: "The gross overuse of Horseman vitamins does not make World tag team champions." 18. Lane, NWA PRO: "From now on, Tully & Arn, the only women you'll get are at the 1-800-GABB number. 19. Bobby Heenan, WWF, on Anabolic Warrior: "The man is half-orangutan...okey, 3/4." 20. Gene Okerlund, WWF, on Akeem safari angle: "I'm gonna renp my subscription to National Geographic. This could be a PBS special."

BLOOPER OF THE WEEK - CWF, for graphic billing Jerry Stubbs as Mr. Olympic, not Olympia.

BEST PICTURES - 1. SCW, for shots of Tommy Rich loading chain in his trunks. 2. Steiner wearing his Florida belt backward during his match on WCW and later leading the crowd in cheering "Syracuse SUX!" 3. Cornette kissing David Crockett on WCW.

NICKNAME OF THE WEEK - Manny Fernandez, for calling Larry Nelson "Mr. Microphone."

STATISTIC OF THE WEEK - Tony Schiavone, TBS: "The Italian Stallion has had an over .500 record in the sport."

BOO AWARD - SCW, for cutting off a match (Mantel-Prichard) with no explanation for the second straight week.

PARTING BLOWS: The Crockett/Von Erich negotiations allegedly broke down over a demand that Kerry be made NWA champion....Ted DiBiase made appearance on last weekend's LIFESTYLES OF THE RICH & FAMOUS....Randy Savage skedded for this Friday's syndicated REGIS & KATHIE LEE (live to many markets at 9 a.m. EDT)....Finally, we'll treat TRTB as a NON-supercard now and offer the results in the Oct. 10 issue. FSB.

MATWATCH
213 PINE HILLS AVE.
AUBURN AL 36830